

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 DOE-11 SOE-02 OES-07
AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 H-01 INR-10
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06
SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 SIG-03 NRC-05
/137 R

DRAFTED BY EB/ORF/FSE:WCRAMSAY:SMW
APPROVED BY EB/ORF/FSE:GARSEN
DOE/IA:BCURTIS
OES/NET:LNSENZO

-----031231 091438Z /47

R 082255Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
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FOR USEC, USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, OECD

SUBJECT: REPORT OF MARCH 2 NUCLEAR SUBGROUP MEETING

1. THE IEA NUCLEAR SUBGROUP MET IN PARIS ON MARCH 2 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF VAN BULOW (DENMARK). TWO THEMES PERVADED THE DISCUSSION:

- A. THE NEED FOR THE IEA TO COORDINATE CLOSELY WITH THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE EVALUATION AND
- B. THE URGENCY OF THE NEED TO DEAL WITH IMPEDIMENTS TO THE REALIZATION OF COUNTRIES' NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAMS.

THE NUCLEAR SUBGROUP ADDRESSED THE APPROPRIATE WORK FOR EACH OF THE SIX TASKS ESTABLISHED BY THE JANUARY 19 GOVERNING BOARD AND AS A FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS, AGREED UPON A QUESTIONNAIRE TO BE FORWARDED TO MEMBER COUNTRIES BY THE IEA SECRETARIAT FOR COMPLETION AND RETURN BY APRIL 1.

2. THE QUESTIONNAIRE TO BE FORWARDED BY THE SECRETARIAT TO IEA MEMBER COUNTRIES IS ESSENTIALLY IDENTICAL TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE BEING USED BY INFCE WORKING GROUPS ONE AND TWO. THE IEA WILL ASK SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS ON THE

ELECTRICITY GENERATION MIX PROJECTED TO THE YEAR 2000 WHICH REFLECTS THE OVERALL ENERGY PERSPECTIVE OF THE IEA. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IEA MEMBER COUNTRIES WILL BE ASKED TO SUBMIT RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE BY APRIL 1 FOR CONSOLIDATION BY THE SECRETARIAT AND CONSIDERATION BY THE SUBGROUP AT ITS NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MAY 17.

3. THE SECRETARIAT CIRCULATED A PRELIMINARY PAPER ON TASKS 2, 3 AND 5 DEALING WITH SUPPLY OF URANIUM, MINING OF URANIUM AND SUPPLY OF ENRICHMENT SERVICES RESPECTIVELY. DELEGATIONS WILL SUPPLY WRITTEN COMMENTS ON THE SECRETARIAT PAPER DEALING FIRST WITH PERCEIVED CONSTRAINTS IN NUCLEAR POWER IN THESE AREAS. SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS WILL ADDRESS MECHANISMS TO DEAL WITH THE IMPEDIMENTS IDENTIFIED.

4. THE INTERNATIONAL URANIUM RESOURCE EVALUATION PROGRAM (IUREP) WAS DISCUSSED IN THE CONTEXT OF TASK FOUR - URANIUM EXPLORATION. THE SUBGROUP NOTED THE REPORT OF

PROGRESS BY THE NEA/IAEA STEERING GROUP ON URANIUM RESOURCES ON PHASE I OF THE PROGRAM. THE SUBGROUP WILL RETURN TO A DETAILED DISCUSSION OF IUREP PHASE II UPON RECEIPT OF THE FINAL PHASE I REPORT FROM THE NEA EXPECTED IN MAY 1978 AND AFTER THE EXAMINATION OF THE

ELECTRICITY DEMAND QUESTIONNAIRES.

5. THE NUCLEAR SUBGROUP, IN CONSIDERATION OF TASK SIX OF THE MANDATE CONCERNING THE BACK END OF THE NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE, CONCLUDED THAT THE IEA SHOULD CAREFULLY EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITY OF A JOINT WASTE DISPOSAL/STORAGE DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM. THE WORK AND EXPERIENCE OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES WILL BE EXAMINED TO DETERMINE THE ADEQUACY OF THE INTERNATIONAL EFFORT AND TO IDENTIFY AREAS FOR ADDITIONAL OR ACCELERATED WORK EITHER IN THOSE FORA OR ELSEWHERE AS APPROPRIATE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING REPORTS, NUCLEAR COOPERATION PROGRAMS, NUCLEAR FUELS, COMMITTEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE059939
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WCRAMSAY:SMW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780106-0421
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780391/aaaacyxt.tel
Line Count: 126
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 33eb0fcb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3398820
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORT OF MARCH 2 NUCLEAR SUBGROUP MEETING
TAGS: ENRG, OECD, INFCE
To: ANKARA ATHENS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/33eb0fcb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014